



January 23, 2002

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street, NW Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

The grim economic realities of the last year have been endured by all of us. I am the President and CEO of the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Chamber of Commerce and have found that the challenges of this new economy have been driven home in the last few months as employers have shut down completely or cut costs drastically.

My experiences with the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce have emphasized lessons I learned when I served as Speaker of the House in the Iowa Legislature. The actions of government officials can have unintended and far-reaching consequences. Government also has opportunities at times to provide great benefit with its actions.

Government has an opportunity in the anti-trust case against the Microsoft Corporation to be fiscally responsible while at the same time sending a signal to start-up technology companies and other businesses that they can and should take business risks again without the threat of government intrusion.

Iowa, like the nation, is trying to restart an economy. Iowa also remains focused on attracting and retaining young people to our state. It's time to remove the uncertainty this case has caused to loom over the business world. Settling the Microsoft case is best for our economic health and it appears that the agreement offered is a good one.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ron Corbett'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.
Ron Corbett

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MTC-00031902_0001